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MEMORANDUM TO: The Director

SUBJECT: Status of Central-South American Project

1. Personnel - Recruitment is proceeding very slowly due to a number of reasons:

- a. The inherent difficulty in interesting skilled technicians at the salaries established.
- b. The desire to maintain a sufficiently high personal standard to insure proper working with Embassy personnel.
- c. The presently inadequate assessment school staff which has necessitated postponement of even preliminary interviews for a considerable period of weeks.
- d. Necessary time required in correspondence, processing of forms, and particularly security.

At the present time, Communications has tentatively made arrangements for the employment of three men for this project. None has entered on duty due to lack of security approval or assessment approval. It is believed that sufficient personnel can be processed to complete our portion of the overall commitment.

2. Radio -

- a. No decision has as yet been reached relative to the U. S. base facilities, for handling radio circuits necessitated by the project. It appears that satisfactory arrangements cannot be made with the Signal Corps and the problem will next be presented to Naval Communications. The solution of this problem will define the approach on the question of frequencies and call signs. Plans for actual radio operation are currently being made and will be completed when the base station question is decided.
- b. Equipment for replacement of that which is to be turned over to our personnel is being procured on the basis of inventories prepared by the FBI.

-2-

3. Ciphers - Cipher materials are being assembled and procedures finalized. It is hoped to present an external pattern which will not obviously associate the Central South American stations with others controlled by this organization.

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Chief, Communications Division

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